



In the Matter of: Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking Comments on E-rate Category Two

WC Docket No. 13-184

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the importance of our libraries' WiFi and internal connections.

Please maintain secure funding through the full five year budget period as adopted during the 2014 E-Rate Modernization. The Minnesota community residents in our nine county area depend on reliable WiFi connections at their libraries to use their tablets, laptops, and other devices. Most of the public libraries in Minnesota are in isolated small towns, miles from an urban center. In these small towns, the public library offers the only reliable, accessible WiFi connection.

Library users are completing job applications, applying for financial aid, seeking health information, and earning school credit - all dependent on a strong WiFi signal. Minnesota's public libraries provide essential digital services that depend on WiFi, like a state-wide collection of ebooks primarily focused on meeting students' needs. Community members everywhere know WiFi throughout the library is not a "nice to have" - it's a core community service. Whether it is a tutor meeting to work with a student after school or a person needing to print important documents that have been sent to their smart phone, library users rely on the efficiency and effectiveness of the library's WiFi network to get their tasks done.

With the commitment of the FCC to ensure a library budget of \$2.30 (\$5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can upgrade outdated equipment or plan for new construction--projects that small communities cannot undertake without this support.

Sincerely,

Ann Hokanson
Executive Director
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